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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/715,586	11/17/2000	Peter Worthington Hamilton	5922R2C	5737

27752 7590 03/02/2006

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION  
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6110 CENTER HILL AVENUE  
CINCINNATI, OH 45224

EXAMINER
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CHANG, VICTOR S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1771

DATE MAILED: 03/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Advisory Action  
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No.

09/715,586

Applicant(s)

WORTHINGTON HAMILTON ET AL.

Examiner

Victor S. Chang

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**--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

THE REPLY FILED 16 February 2006 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☐ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.  
b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**NOTICE OF APPEAL**

2. ☒ The Notice of Appeal was filed on 16 February 2006. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

**AMENDMENTS**

3. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because  
(a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);  
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);  
(c) ☒ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or  
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See attached NOTE. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).  
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): \_\_\_\_\_.  
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).  
7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.  
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:  
Claim(s) allowed: \_\_\_\_\_.  
Claim(s) objected to: \_\_\_\_\_.  
Claim(s) rejected: 1,9-12,14-18,44,47-52,54-58,66,84,95,97-103 and 105-108.  
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: \_\_\_\_\_.

**AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE**

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).  
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).  
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER**

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:  
See attached NOTE.  
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08 or PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.  
13. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**NOTE**

1. First, the Examiner wish to clarify that all the pending claims 1, 9-12, 14-18, 41, 47-52, 54-58, 66, 81, 95, 97-103 and 105-108 are being rejected, as indicated in the summary sheet of Office action mailed 11/16/2005. Specifically, claims 1, 9-11, 14-18, 41, 47-51, 54-58, 66, 81, 95, 97--99, 101-103 and 105-107 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilbur (US 2338749) in view of Reed et al. (US 4054697), and further in view of the admitted prior art; and claims 12, 52, 100 and 108 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilbur (US 2338749) in view of Reed et al. (US 4054697), and further in view of the admitted prior art and Kovac (US 3819467), as set forth in Office actions mailed 6/30/2005 and 11/16/2005. The Examiner apologizes for inadvertently omitting the writing of the rejection of claims 12, 52, 100 and 108 in the Office action mailed 11/16/2005. However, Applicants clearly fully understand the grounds of rejections, and specifically points to an issue regarding the Kovac reference (see Remarks, pages 7 and 8), it is believed that the inadvertent omission has caused no harm to the Applicants.

2. With respect to Applicants' argument "... The Office Action ... argument is improper since the Office has not yet established a prima facie case of obviousness by presenting a combination of references which teach or suggest ... a sheet activatable by application of a tensile force, therefore the references do not support a rejection of Applicants' claims ..." (Remarks, pages 7-8, bridging paragraph), the Examiner respectfully repeats (see Office action mail 11/16/2006, page 3): 1) Reed expressly

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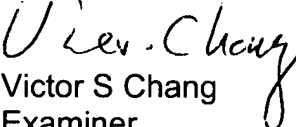
teaches that the adhesive layer is activatable under a load, which reads both on the claimed compressive and tensile forces. 2) Applicants have failed to provide any evidence that Reed's adhesive layer cannot be activatable by a tensile force, or Reads' load does not read on tensile force, and reminds applicants that attorney's argument cannot take place of evidence. 3) The Examiner would like to also point out that the limitation "activatable by a tensile force" is clearly an optional element, there is no requirement for the prior art to provide or account for them. As such, it does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. Finally, Applicants are again reminded that Wilbur in view of Reed renders the structure of instantly claimed invention obvious as claimed. The optional use property "activatable by a tensile force" merely appears to be a latent property, which is in fact read upon by Reed's express teaching of "activatable under a load". In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, Applicants' argument is not persuasive.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor S. Chang whose telephone number is 571-272-1474. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel H. Morris can be reached on 571-272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Victor S Chang  
Examiner  
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2/27/2006